regulations. In Connecticut, the Legislature must approve regulations. As a practical matter, since the classification system reflects the use of an important resource adopted pursuant to statute, it reduces the incentive for industrial firms to challenge it on the grounds that it has not been appropriately adopted as a regulation.

As previously stated, the classification system as it has been designed in Connecticut has a large data base and provides an enormously powerful tool for protecting ground water, the full implications of which have not yet been realized. According to the DEP staff, it has been used to redirect the priorities of the enforcement program. The DEP staff has redirected enforcement efforts toward areas designated as GB/GA on the basin maps, i.e., areas where existing industrial discharges must be phased out or upgraded to comply with the ground water classification. It is evident that, since the GC areas occupy only 0.3 percent of the land area of the state, the adoption of the classification system means that Connecticut is moving rapidly away from dependence on land disposal of hazardous, industrial, and solid wastes.

Classification Use by Industry and Local Units of Government

Industry and local government representatives interviewed by committee members indicated that the classification system had become a powerful tool for industrial and local planning. DEP has prepared a report entitled Protecting Connecticut's Ground Water: A Guide to Ground Water Protection for Local Officials. The DEP has one person on its staff who attempts to work closely with local officials to adopt and implement the ground water classification system. The guide shows how the classification system can be used by local planners to control nonpoint sources of pollution through zoning or other enforcement mechanisms not available to DEP. Clearly, it would be a challenge for one staff person to carry out this local coordination function efficiently with all towns in Connecticut. Everyone with whom the committee members spoke agreed that DEP needed more resources to work with the towns and that the towns should be encouraged to revise their ordinances and master plans to protect ground water in accordance with the classification system.

The town of Southington, which has had a problem with ground water contamination owing to a sol vents-recovery facility resulting in the closing of some water supply wells, hired a consulting firm to prepare hydrogeo-logic maps based on the classification system for the town. Southington is using the same classification system as the state has adopted. They will use it for aquifer protection and as a basis for a land acquisition program. Southington modified the state classification map with a more detailed data